

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 56th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

NATURAL RESOURCES

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN BILL TASH**, on January 6, 1999 at 3:00 P.M., in Room 327 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Bill Tash, Chairman (R)
Rep. Hal Harper, Vice Chairman (D)
Rep. Cindy Younkin, Vice Chairman (R)
Rep. Rod Bitney (R)
Rep. Aubyn A Curtiss (R)
Rep. Rick Dale (R)
Rep. Bill Eggers (D)
Rep. Ron Erickson (D)
Rep. David Ewer (D)
Rep. Gail Gutsche (D)
Rep. Joan Hurdle (D)
Rep. Dan McGee (R)
Rep. Douglas Mood (R)
Rep. Karl Ohs (R)
Rep. Scott J Orr (R)
Rep. Bob Raney (D)
Rep. Bob Story (R)
Rep. Jay Stovall (R)
Rep. Carley Tuss (D)
Rep. Doug Wagner (R)

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Kimberly Walkenhorst, Committee Secretary
Kathleen Williams, Legislative Services Division

Please Note: These are summary minutes. These minutes were taped at 2.4 speed. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Committee Business Summary:

Organizational meeting with presentations from the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC).

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 0.1 - 14.5}

Introductions by all committee members were made.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 14.5}

Chairman Tash stated that committee proxies are to be left with chairman or vice chairmen. They are to be recorded by date and signed. The same protocol should be followed for Executive Actions.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 15.5}

Chairman Tash stated that HB0074 will be postponed to a later date.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 16.9}

Rep. Wagner asked how many bills the natural resource committee would hear this session. Chairman Tash responded that we would hear 100+ bills.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 18.6}

Presentation by Randy Mosely (standing in for Director Bud Clinch) for DNRC. Mr. Mosely gave an overview of the programs and organizational structure of the DNRC. He handed out pamphlets describing the seven divisions: Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation, Water Resources Division, Conservation and Resource Development Division, Centralized Services Division, Forestry Division, Fire and Aviation, and Trust Land Management Division. DNRC has 40 field offices and 28 are located across the state. DNRC is trying to consolidate these offices. **EXHIBIT (nah02a01)**

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 26.5}

QUESTION FROM REP. ROD BITNEY: "What is the depth of the wells?"

ANSWER FROM RANDY MOSELY: "I don't know."

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 42.7}

Susan Cottingham discussed the Montana Reserved Water Rights Compact Commission that was created by the 1979 legislature. **EXHIBIT (nah02a02)**

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 56.8}

Chairman Tash asked if we should break or if we should continue on with the Department of Environmental Equality(DEQ) presentation. It was decided to continue on with the presentation.

{Tape : 1; Side : A; Approx. Time Counter : 57.7}

Mark Simovich presented an overview of the DEQ agency, Montana laws that are administered by DEQ, federal statutes delegated to DEQ, and the functions of DEQ.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 9.2}

Mark discussed the structure of the DEQ agency. And then ended his presentation.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 25.1}

Question from Rep. Hurdle and Rep. Harper regarding the DEQ agency.

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 38.5}

Rep. Harper asked question about EPA's(Environmental Protection Agency) dispute with Montana's environmental laws. Julie Lapierre from the Governor's office tried to explain the situation and the Governor's standpoint. Rep. Hal Harper requested a copy of the EPA's letter to the Governor's office. Julie Lapierre said she would get one for the committee to review.**EXHIBIT (nah02a03)**

{Tape : 1; Side : B; Approx. Time Counter : 39.8}

Chairman Tash moved that the meeting be adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 4:00 P.M.

REP. BILL TASH, Chairman

Kimberly Walkenhorst, Secretary

BT/DT

EXHIBIT (nah02aad)